



SOUND  
OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

May 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our patients and their families. The CDC recommendations continue to evolve as the incidence of COVID-19 in the United States changes. Given the increased scrutiny of labor support partners and their potential exposures to COVID-19 when a laboring patient is admitted to Yale New Haven Hospital, we are requesting that all partners or planned labor support of pregnant people are given the opportunity to work remotely during the last several weeks of their loved one's pregnancy to decrease their risk of exposure.

SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) spreads primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks, and therefore basic but consistent precautions can be taken to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19. These measures include frequent handwashing, wearing facemasks, avoiding prolonged close (<6 feet) contact with people, and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces. In accordance with the recommendations put forth by CDC and government officials as well as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, we would like you to take the following into consideration with our patients and their families:

- If possible, please support work from home policies and encourage social distancing to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19
- Please follow current CDC guidelines and direction from state and local health departments regarding practices to reduce the risk of viral spread
- Please implement preventive practices, including social distancing, hand hygiene, frequent surface decontamination and the consistent wearing of facemasks for all employees, not just pregnant employees
- Please actively encourage sick employees to stay home. If an employee is exposed to someone who has tested positive for the coronavirus or who has traveled to a geographical location with a high concentration of COVID-19, they should be asked to stay home and follow any additional guidelines put forth by the State of Connecticut
- Please do not require a healthcare provider's note for employees who are sick with acute respiratory illness to validate their illness or return to work
- Please note the additional recommendation that labor support persons are advised to further reduce their risk of exposure to COVID-19 in the anticipated final 2 weeks of their partner's pregnancy. As such, additional work accommodations are requested during this time

For the labor support persons of pregnant people who work in critical infrastructure industries, such as health care services, education, public services, pharmaceuticals and food supply, working from home may not be feasible and their employers should follow the infection prevention and control recommendations put forth by the CDC. If possible based on staffing

availability, consider limiting the exposure of health care professionals to patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, especially during higher risk procedures (e.g., aerosol-generating procedures).

We appreciate your taking a moment to support your employees as we as a society navigate this extraordinary time.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hanson, MD FACOG  
Musa Speranza, MD FACOG  
Steven Fleischman, MD FACOG  
Michael Reel, MD FACOG  
Margaret Baumbusch, MD FACOG  
Meagan Haynes, MD FACOG  
Erin Moroni, FNP-BC